OLGC: More than STEM… STREAM!

What is STREAM Education?

STREAM schools focus on the core tenets of STEM education, with additional emphasis on Religion (Catholic moral teaching) and the Arts. STREAM classes are not elective courses. They are part of our core curriculum and essential to developing well-balanced, globally-minded individuals who are prepared to deal with the challenges of the 21st Century.

At OLGC, we are committed to meeting the needs of today’s students. One of the first schools in the Diocese of Arlington to be awarded the National Blue Ribbon of Excellence, we have a long-standing reputation for outstanding academics. Just as important, we provide an environment that enhances the child’s spiritual, social, emotional, and physical growth.
The Arts
At OLGC, the Arts are alive and well. Students are engaged in creative pursuits throughout each day. Core classes include art, music, and Spanish language.
Throughout their time here, students also cultivate skills in creative writing and the dramatic arts. A variety of extra-curricular activities such as band, choir, and yearbook, are offered.

Math
In today’s world, logical problem-solving skills have replaced memorization as essential for success in math. Our top-notch math teachers focus on building those skills and correlating them to skills in other disciplines. Math instruction is specifically tailored to each grade’s needs. In our upper grades, students are individually placed in math course levels where they will experience both challenge and success. Our graduates are prepared to excel at some of the area’s most competitive private and public high schools.

Science
Our Adele E. Graham Science Lab was the first K-8 hands-on science lab with dedicated faculty in the Diocese of Arlington.
The OLGCI Science Club has been named Virginia Elementary School of the Year every year since its inception. It continues to grow in membership and national recognition.

Technology
At OLGC, we use the latest technology to enhance learning: tablets, robotics, 3D printing and other interactive technologies.
In the lower grades, we continue to emphasize fine motor skills and handwriting; technology is used to enhance—not replace—core skill building.
By Middle School, each student is provided an iPad with software and apps to support the rigorous curriculum. This 1:1 device program helps prepare students for the challenges of high school and beyond, where life-long learning depends on a solid technology foundation and the skills to apply it.

Religion
In a world where technology often replaces human interaction, we need to remember the dignity within each person. At OLGC, a focus on faith helps students understand that with every text sent, status update, and photo shared, there is a higher calling which gives greater meaning to our communication with others.
Students of all faiths are welcome in our school. OLGC provides a Catholic education infused with the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. We follow the Religion Curriculum guidelines set forth by the Arlington Diocese Office of Catholic Schools. Our students attend Mass regularly, and participate actively in the Sacraments.

Engineering
Engineering is not just about blueprints. At OLGC, we teach the engineering design processes as a creative way to solve today’s challenges.
Engineering design begins in Kindergarten with students designing their own leprechaun traps. As students grow they build simple machines, wind turbines, bridges, and more!

A student tests wind speed using an anemometer made in Science Lab.

A student collaborates on a project in our Computer Lab.

Band members practice for one of two yearly concerts.